



Telephone: 1-800-535-7088
Email: nass-wv@nass.usda.gov



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in cooperation with

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during April 2015 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was up 7 percent from April 2014. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 510,000 pounds live weight, down 9 percent from April 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 43 pounds from the previous year, at 1,041 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 181,000 pounds live weight, up 99 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 275 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in April, up 1 percent from the 3.98 billion pounds produced in April 2014.

Beef production, at 1.93 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter

totaled 2.38 million head, down 8 percent from April 2014. The average live weight was up 32 pounds from the previous year, at 1,338 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.6 million pounds, 21 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 35,400 head, down 27 percent from April 2014. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from last year, at 318 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.07 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.68 million head, up 9 percent from April 2014. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 284 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.6 million pounds, was down 10 percent from April 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 198,200 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 1 pound from April a year ago.

January to April 2015 commercial red meat production was 15.9 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

April 2014 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. April 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CATTLE ON FEED

United States - Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on May 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent above May 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.55 million, 5 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.48 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 240,000, 700-799 pounds were 348,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 640,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.64 million, 8 percent below 2014. April marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 66,000 during April, 20 percent below 2014.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 8.21 billion during April 2015, up slightly from last year. Production included 7.11 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 87 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2015 averaged 358 million, down 1 percent from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,291 eggs, up 1 percent from April 2014.

All layers in the United States on May 1, 2015 totaled 354 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 354 million layers consisted of 296 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.38 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2015, averaged 75.8 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from May 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2015 totaled 49.6 million, up 9 percent from April 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 48.0 million on May 1, 2015, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 219 thousand during April 2015, down 10 percent from April 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2015 totaled 773 million, up 3 percent from April 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 654 million on May 1, 2015, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.09 million broiler-type

pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2015, up 6 percent from April 2014.

MAY CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2015, totaled 220,000 tons. This is 15,000 tons less than what was on hand last year at this time. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2014 - May 1, 2015, was 690,000 tons, 9 percent more than the December 1, 2013 - May 1, 2014, crop disappearance of 635,000 tons for the same period.

United States - Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.47 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2014. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushel from last year. Expected grain area is forecast at 33.8 million acres, up nearly 5 percent from last year.

All on farm hay stocks stored on United States farms May 1, 2015 totaled 24.5 million tons, up 28 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2014 - May 1, 2015 totaled 67.5 million tons, compared with 70.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

May 1 hay stocks levels were record-lows in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

May 1 hay stocks were up from the previous year as improved weather conditions in 2014 led to larger production totals in many States. However, the eastern third of the Nation saw declines in stocks levels in a number of States. Notable declines occurred in the Northeast where winter conditions persisted into early April requiring additional supplemental feeding.

FARM LABOR

United States - There were 687,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of **April 12-18, 2015**, down less than 1 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 549,000 during the week of **January 11-**

17, 2015, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.27 per hour during the **April 2015 reference week**, up 2 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.34 per hour, an increase of 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.58 per hour, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.42 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.9 hours during the April 2015 reference week, compared with 40.1 hours worked during the April 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.53 per hour during the **January 2015 reference week**, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.40 per hour, up 3 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.69 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.52 per hour, was up 3 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.2 hours during the January 2015 reference week, compared with 38.9 hours worked during the January 2014 reference week.

For the **April 2015 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The Mountain III region saw the largest increase, with 38 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in Florida, Hawaii, and the Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) region. Florida saw the biggest decline, with workers down 22 percent from the 2014 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions.

For the **January 2015 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the January 2014 reference week occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The Cornbelt II region saw the largest increase, with 62 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in Hawaii, and the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. The Delta region saw the biggest decline, employing 23 percent less workers during the 2015 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II, and Delta regions.

FARM LIST UPDATES

Your farm or ranch is very important to attain a complete measure of U.S. agriculture whether you are a large or small operation. This includes:

- Retirement/lifestyle farms and ranches that grow a small amount of plants, crops, or keep only a few animals
- Larger operations
- Landowners that only have income from government programs
- And everything in between

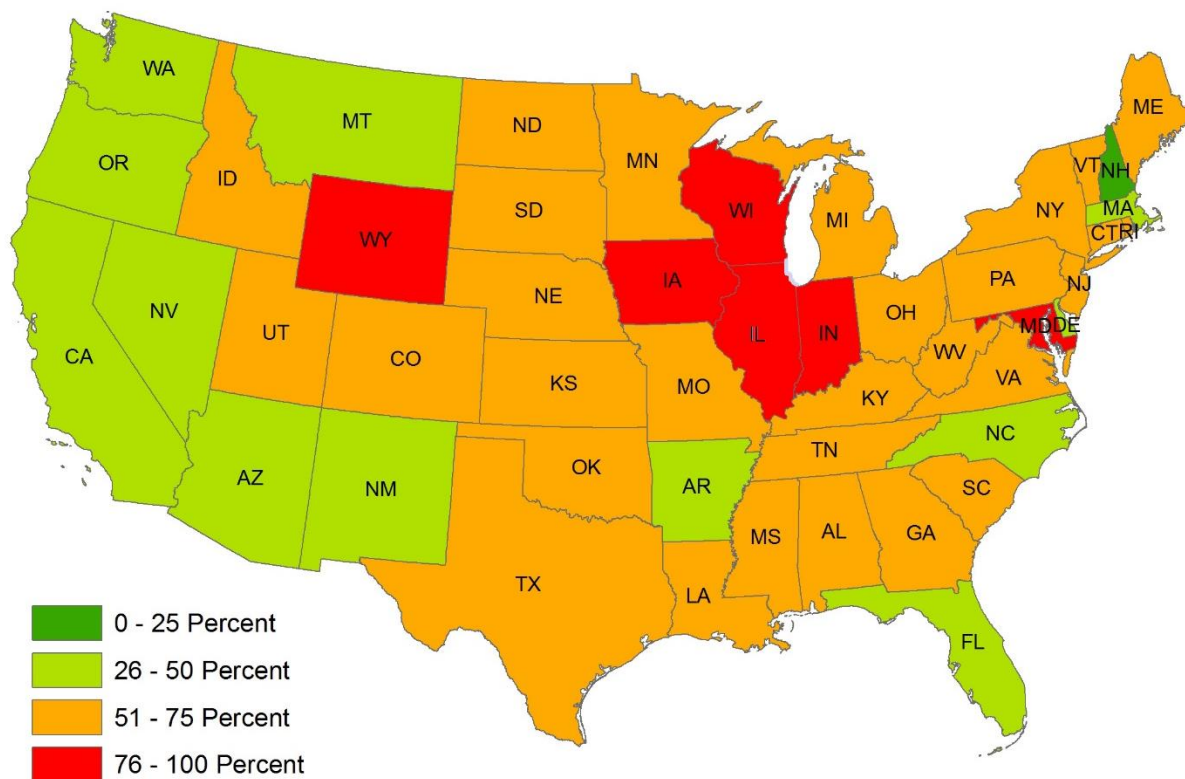
A census of agricultural operations is conducted every five years with follow on surveys occurring between censuses. The next Census of Agriculture will be conducted in 2017

Visit us on the web and sign up with your information so NASS can properly and fully count your operation(s) no matter what size they are:

www.nass.usda.gov/Online_Response/Be_Counted/

Remember the information you provide is kept **confidential by law**, Title 7 of the U.S. Code, and **will not be disclosed** to any other government or private entity.

**PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION – PERCENT RATED GOOD OR BETTER
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 31, 2015**



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Cattle on Feed
Chickens and Eggs

WALT HELMICK, COMMISSIONER
CHARMAINE WILSON, STATE STATISTICIAN

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305